

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed February 25, 2003 (Paper No. 6). Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the following remarks is courteously requested.

Claims 1-18 and 25 remain pending in the application, Claims 19-24 having been canceled in response to a previously imposed Restriction Requirement. Claims 1 and 25 are the independent claims.

Before proceeding with the merits of the Action, Applicants wish to point out that independent Claim 25 was not addressed in the Action but, for completeness will be addressed herein by Applicants' representative.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 103 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 5,850,138 (Adams et al.) and 6,153,957 (Takano). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a system on the rotor of a main generator that electrically couples rotor windings to a plurality of DC sources on an exciter. The system includes a first conductive plate and a second conductive plate and. Independent Claim 25 relates to a generator assembly that includes a main generator having a main rotor that includes a first conductive plate and a second conductive plate. Independent Claims 1 and 25 each recite that the first and second conductive plates are, *inter alia*, supported by the rotor.

Adams et al. relates to a brushless AC generator, which as the Office Action acknowledges, does not include at least the above-noted feature of independent Claims 1 and 25. Takano relates to brushless DC machine that includes a terminal conductor plate (24), to which the terminal ends of the stator windings are connected (col. 3, ll. 13-17). The conductor plate (24) includes an annular insulating substrate (48) having a common annular conductor (49) affixed to one side thereof, and three separate conductors (51, 52, 53) affixed to another side (col. 5, ll. 5-21). As clearly shown in FIG. 10, the stator windings (23-1, 23-2, 23-3) of the machine are selectively electrically coupled between the common conductor (49) and the separate conductors (51, 52, 53). Moreover, as FIG. 2 clearly shows, the conductor plate (24) is supported, via insulating plate (22), by the stator assembly (13).

Hence, it is submitted that both Adams et al. and Takano fail to disclose or suggest, either solely or in combination, at least the above-noted feature recited in independent Claims 1 and 25. Namely, these citations fail to disclose or suggest at least first and second conductive plates that are supported by the rotor. The fact that the first and second conductive plates are supported by the rotor, rather than the stator, is not insignificant, in that the conductive plates rotate with the rotor. Conversely, the conductor plate (24), and thus the common conductor (49) and the three other conductors (51, 52, 53), remain stationary during motor operation.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection is respectfully solicited.

Based on the above, independent Claims 1 and 25 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to independent Claims 1 and 25, and because each recites features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

Paul D. Ambrozowicz
Reg. No. 45,264
(480) 385-5060

Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz
Customer No. 29906